

REMARKS

Pending in the present application were claims 1-18 and 21-23, of which claims 1, 9, 15, and 21 are independent claims. In the Office Action, claims 15-18 were indicated to be allowable, while claims 1-8 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Koike (U.S. 6,177,207) and claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hoshi et al. (U.S. 6,025,978). With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 9, and 21 are amended. In reliance on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants believe that the present application containing claims 1-18 and 21-23 is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**1. Claims 1-8 and 21-23: Koike (U.S. 6,177,207)**

The applicant has amended claims 1 and 21 to traverse the 102(b) rejections based on Koike. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith. Claims 22-23 depend from claim 21 and are allowable therewith.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include "a main pole for perpendicular writing of data to a magnetic medium." Koike discloses a read/write magnetic head for longitudinal writing to a magnetic medium. Claim 1 is patentable over Koike, as Koike fails to set forth each and every element of amended claim 1. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to include "a main magnetic pole for perpendicular writing of data to a magnetic medium." Koike discloses a magnetic head for longitudinal writing and therefore Claim 21 is also patentable over Koike. Claims 22-23 depend from claim 21 and are allowable therewith.

2. Claims 9-14: Hoshi et al., (U.S. 6,025,978)

The applicant has amended claim 9 to traverse the 102(b) rejections based on Hoshi et al. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and are allowable therewith.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to include "a main pole for perpendicular writing of data to a magnetic medium." Hoshi et al. discloses a magnetic head for longitudinal writing. Claim 9 is patentable over Hoshi et al., as Hoshi et al. fails to set forth each and every element of amended claim 9. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and are allowable therewith.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 9, and 21 have been amended to traverse the examiner's rejection. Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable therewith. Claims 10-14 depend from independent claim 9 and are allowable therewith. And claims 22-23 depend from independent claim 21 and are allowable therewith. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the combinations of features recited in claims 2-8, 10-14, and 22-23 are independently patentable, although this does not need to be specifically addressed herein since any claim depending from a patentable independent claim is also patentable. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Claims 15-18 were previously allowed by the examiner. Therefore, all pending claims 1-18 and 21-23 are now in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0982.

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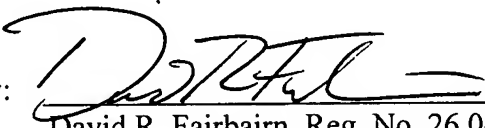
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Respectfully submitted,

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